

MAKING OF NOIDA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Jewar, Taking Off

As India rapidly expands its airport infrastructure — with a slew of upgraded and greenfield facilities — Jewar, 85 km from Delhi's IGI, is the newest addition to that list. NEETIKA JHA and photographer ABHINAV SAHA take a tour of the Jewar airport site as it races to the finish line

THE LATE morning sun bounces off a line of fluorescent orange vests and yellow helmets shuffling towards a makeshift table. There, each of the men in the queue presents his Aadhaar card for verification. A nod later, the workers trudge towards an area filled with the grinding of machines and the striking of hammers.

Nearly 85 km from the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, the primary aviation hub for New Delhi and its adjoining region, this is the airside area of the upcoming Noida International Airport in Jewar, in Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddha Nagar district. Since June 2022, these workers have been giving shape to an expanse of glass, concrete and metal spread across 1,334 acres.

In a step towards heralding operations at Jewar airport, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) on October 31 conducted a successful calibration flight — a crucial first step to ensure the accuracy of an airport's systems, including navigation, communication and radar.

While the airport's date of inauguration is yet to be announced, state government sources said the first of the three phases would be inaugurated in November.

India's largest airport?

As India rapidly expands its airport infrastructure — with a slew of upgraded and greenfield airports — Jewar is the newest addition to that list. The airport, once completed, is expected to be among India's biggest.

Commissioned in 2021 to lighten the existing passenger load on Delhi's IGI Airport, which handled nearly 8 crore fliers in 2024, Jewar airport is expected to handle 1.2 crore passengers annually in the first phase. Officials said its passenger capacity in phases two and three is expected to rise to 3 crore and 5 crore, respectively.

For now, under the Rs 6,500-crore phase one of the airport operations, Jewar will have one runway and one terminal, though officials said there are plans for six runways and four terminals in all.

Under phase one, the airport is expected to handle 30 flights, including 25 to major domestic destinations such as Lucknow, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Dehradun; three international flights to Zurich, Singapore and Dubai; and two cargo flights. The state government, which would

want to showcase the airport ahead of the 2027 elections, is in talks with major airlines on starting operations at the Jewar facility.

"We have been working on this project since 2019. Sometimes, it feels like we started just a month ago. Its journey has been a turbulent one — from designing and constructing to preparing to operate a greenfield airport," says Christoph Schnellmann, CEO of the Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL), a 100% subsidiary of Zurich Airport International AG, which is overseeing the development of the Jewar airport.

The need for an airport

Those heading from Noida towards the upcoming airport will have to get on to the Yamuna Expressway. Dissecting green fields, this 165-km six-lane highway is flanked by babool trees and bursts of bougainvillea vines weighed down by blossoms in a riot of pink, white and orange.

A line of villages enroute — Dankaur, Rastampur and Nagla Hukum Singh — end at Jewar, where green signboards point towards the upcoming airport. At his office in Greater Noida, Shaileendra Bhatia, 49, Officer on Special Duty, Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA), talks of how it all began. YEIDA, the government agency responsible for development along the Yamuna Expressway, is overseeing the airport project on behalf of the UP government.

Around 2017, says Bhatia, government and AAI officials realised that increasing passenger load would one day saturate IGI airport. "We also had the NCR Planning Board's (NCRPB) functional plan on transport for NCR-2032, which stated that the second airport should be built somewhere near Jewar," he says.

The plan for a second airport in Delhi-NCR goes back to 2001, when the Aviation Ministry commissioned a feasibility report on a second airport in Delhi-NCR. After several surveys and meetings between the Ministry and AAI, in 2017, the first Obstacle Limitation Surfaces Survey (OLS, which checks for potential obstructions around an airport for safety of planes), was conducted.

The Jewar airport site is strategically located — about 85 km from IGI airport, 50 km from Noida and 87 km from the Hindon airport. The tourist city of Agra is 130 km from the airport and Aligarh a mere 65 km away. Calling the location of Jewar airport "its

USP", YEIDA CEO Rakesh Kumar Singh says it will cater to the passengers of western Uttar Pradesh. "Visitors to Agra, Mathura and Vrindavan will no longer have to land in Delhi and spend hours travelling. They can land in Jewar," he says.

● About the upcoming airport

1,334 acres
under phase one

₹4,096 crore
paid for land by YEIDA so far

2021
the year work on the site started

CONCESSIONAIRE: Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL), a 100% subsidiary of Zurich Airport International AG

PROJECT LEASE: to YIAPL for 40 years, starting October 1, 2021

3 total construction phases

● Phase 1 (expected to be inaugurated soon)

₹6,500cr cost of phase 1

● Passenger load: Nearly 1.2 crore annually

● Airport to have one runway and one terminal under phase 1

● Phases 2 and 3 (expected to be completed by 2047)

● Cost: Land acquisition underway

● Passenger load: Nearly 3 crore and 5 crore annually, respectively

● Airport to eventually have six runways and four terminals

Passengers from Aligarh, Hathras, Moradabad, Meerut, Bulandshahr and Faridabad, too, stand to benefit. "The NCR runs on the Eastern and Western Peripheral Expressways; we are now connecting it to the airport. Also, cities on the banks of the Ganga, from Haridwar to Bijnor, are on the Ganga Expressway — we plan to connect this route to the airport," he says.

"Once the airport is ready, we will have a lot of aprons. Parking charges for airlines will be low and we will have more late-night flights. So passengers can expect cheaper flights out of Jewar," he says. Passengers can also expect a unique airport experience, promises YIAPL CEO Schnellmann. "Once passengers clear their security checks, they will enter a huge courtyard. Since it will be a digital airport, they will have a lot of things to experience, including a mix of retail and duty-free offerings from both global brands and local treasures, the best of airport dining with premium lounges, diverse multi-cuisine dining options and spa services designed for ultimate relaxation," he says.

A hurdle and a race to finish

Back at the airport site, construction is on at a frenzied pace — on runways, the main terminal, sewage treatment plants, office blocks and data centres, among others. While some workers move against the towering golden frame to tie the Air Traffic Control (ATC) tower's reinforcement bars, others transfer buckets of concrete to the pil-

lars that will eventually connect the passenger boarding bridge. Next to them, workers — their voices drowned by the sound of engines — help the massive arms of cranes swing into action using ropes and signals.

In 2020, the scene looked vastly different. Back then, just as the team prepared to step up operations, the pandemic hit, catching them off guard. They had to rethink and recalibrate the way they worked, before eventually moving to video conferencing.

"Typically, architects fly in with their plans, but we did it all via video conference. In the first two years, nearly 80% of the team started working with us, but we were yet to work face-to-face," recalls the CEO.

Talking about the airport design, he says it has "borrowed" from the heritage and culture of the country.

"We have used red sandstone for the terminal building. It will emulate the look of a *haveli*, where the courtyard brings in fresh air and sunlight. A translucent, wavy roof, inspired by the region's important rivers, will emulate the flow of a water body. The flight of steps in the terminal forecourt mimic those in the ghats of Varanasi and Haridwar," he says, adding that the building will also have ornamental lattice screens.

The design elements, he says, have been chosen keeping in mind the larger goal — that of a world-class airport that's committed to an ambitious net-zero emissions target.

"We have ensured that the impact on the environment remains minimal," he adds.

Life outside the airport

The approach road to the airport, once an expanse of farmland, is now lined with a string of real-estate offices, many with neon-lit sign boards. Inside, the owners, mostly farmers whose land was acquired for the

project, say property rates have shot up over the last six months, from Rs 25,000 a sq yard to Rs 60,000 a sq yard.

After the first round of acquisition in 2019, residents of six villages were rehabilitated at an R&R (Relief and Rehabilitation) colony in Jewar, nearly 3.5 km away. Since then, with land prices shooting up, the compensation package, too, has been increased on the demand of villagers. While farmers whose land was acquired in the first phase were offered Rs 2,100 per sqm and plots, the compensation package went up to Rs 3,100 per sqm for the second phase and Rs 4,300 per sqm for the third and fourth phases.

Talking about land acquisition, YEIDA's Bhatia says the most challenging part was convincing farmers, who had owned the land for generations, to part with it. "They were attached to their land. Since we did not want to hurt their sentiments, we came up with a rehabilitation plan and a settlement that felt like their old village," he says.

However, most people at the R&R colony said they had used up their compensation money to build new homes and now had no other means of income.

Ram Vir Singh, 65, a former resident of Nangla Ganeshi village, says he received a compensation of nearly Rs 25 lakh for his 6.17 bigha. Singh, a farmer, used Rs 15 lakh of that money to build a two-storeyed house and also bought some farming land in Aligarh.

"Before he lost his job two months ago, my son worked as a canteen boy at a private firm in Greater Noida. We have money for now, but not for the long run," he says.

While land has already been acquired from six villages in the district for the second phase of the airport, land has also been identified for the third phase.

At Neemka Shahjahanpur, one of the villages that have been identified for acquisition in the third phase, Ajay Atri, 43, a farmer who owns 1 bigha, says, "I am ready to part with my land and start a business with the compensation money. I don't want my children to become a farmer like me. There is no money in agriculture."

However, his brother Sanjay, 45, demanded higher compensation. "Only 70% of the residents have agreed to the acquisition. We are close to Bulandshahr, our land rates will go up anyway," he says.

At Khwajapur, another village identified for the third phase, Pradeep, 23, smiles when asked about his future plans. "First, I will first buy a phone. Then, I will open a car wash. Most people here have no business sense beyond these fields," says Pradeep, a Class 5 dropout.

Salman Khan, an influencer from Alawalpur, a village adjoining the airport site, who has over 1 lakh followers on Instagram and 2 lakh on YouTube, is excited about the airport and the upcoming film city in the district. Dressed in white pants and a purple shirt, Khan hopes that with the airport, his life will take off, too. "I spend a lot of money travelling to Mumbai and Delhi. Flights from here will cut down my travel cost... I also plan to make some videos at the airport," he says.

PLANS TO LINK THE AIRPORT



Intercity, long-haul and direct buses from major centres including Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana



Airport taxis and cab aggregators



RRTS link from Ghaziabad



High-speed rail link between Delhi and Varanasi with a stop at the airport





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THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

14 NOVEMBER 2025

Festive cheer at NSCBI Airport with cake mixing ceremony

Kolkata: The Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International (NSCBI) Airport, welcomed the winter season with a heart-warming celebration. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) hosted a symbolic Cake Mixing Ceremony at the Airport Travel Club Lounge on Thursday, marking the onset of the holiday season and spreading cheer among passengers and guests. The age-old tradition of cake mixing — an integral prelude to Christmas festivities — brought together airport officials, lounge representatives, and travellers in a spirited display of camaraderie. Dried fruits, nuts, and aromatic spices were mixed with joy and laughter, symbolising unity, happiness, and the excitement of celebrations ahead. Vikram Singh, Airport Director, NSCBI Airport lauded the initiative, noting that such events not only enrich the travel experience but also infuse a sense of warmth and belonging within the airport community. With live music, vibrant décor, and festive aromas filling the air, the event turned into a moment of shared joy — transforming a transit space into a hub of seasonal celebration. The cake mixing ceremony heralds the beginning of Kolkata Airport's festive calendar, with more events planned in the coming weeks to enhance the travel experience for flyers.



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BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

15 NOVEMBER 2025

Bhogapuram
airport will be
ready ahead of
schedule: GM Rao

G Naga Sridhar

**'Bhogapuram airport to
be ready ahead of
schedule'**

Visakhapatnam:

The Greenfield Airport at Bhogapuram will be completed ahead of schedule and will be operational by June 2026, G M Rao, Chairman of GMR Group said. Speaking at the inaugural session of Andhra Pradesh CII Partnership Summit 2025 which began here on Friday, Rao said the Group will also build an integrated aerospace in 500 acres in Bhogapuram with MRO and other facilities. OUR BUREAU



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BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

15 NOVEMBER 2025

Air India to unveil flagship premium lounge at IGI Airport +

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

The Tata Group-led Air India will unveil its first premium lounge at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in the coming weeks, industry sources told *businessline*.

The launch, said sources, marks the beginning of a broader strategy to upgrade service standards.

According to sources, the upcoming facility at Delhi Airport will be followed by similar premium lounges in Mumbai and Bengaluru, to be rolled out in phases over the coming year.

The international lounge will be opened at IGI's Terminal 3 and equipped with "an elegant design, curated experiences and tailored services for guests."

"The intention behind the strategic initiative is to provide the best lounge experience to our passengers.



As we are adding new aircraft to the Air India Group fleet with updated inflight products, it is essential to offer our passengers an enhanced ground service experience," industry sources said. When contacted, Air India did not reply.

To design the lounges, Air India has partnered with global hospitality design firm Hirsch Bedner Associates (HBA), which is also refurbishing its lounge at JFK Airport in New York.

As per sources, the Delhi lounge will feature "a luxurious, modern aesthetic with sophisticated furnishings,

ambient lighting, and a design language aligned with Air India's refreshed branding. Representing the rich culture and heritage of India, the lounge will exhibit contemporary art, décor and a thoughtfully curated selection of F&B," sources said.

"The luxurious ambience of the lounge has been inspired by Air India's new identity, reflecting both Indian warmth and global standards."

ALSO AT GLOBAL HUBS

The new lounges will host first-class and business-class passengers, frequent flyers, and Star Alliance members. On the international front, Air India plans to expand its lounge network to key global hubs as part of its long-term transformation under the Tata Group.

In addition, sources said that new facilities are being conceptualised in San Francisco and select airports across Europe.



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DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

14 NOVEMBER 2025

GIANT ANTONOV AN-124 DRAWS CROWDS TO HYD AIRPORT

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 13

The city skies witnessed a spectacular sight on Thursday as the Antonov An-124 Ruslan landed at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in Shamshabad, captivating passengers and airport staff alike. The mammoth cargo aircraft measures 69 metres in length with a wingspan of 73 metres and can transport between 120 and 150 tonnes of cargo.

Engineers at RGIA said that each visit by this engineering icon showcases not only the wonder of aviation but also the airport's capability to handle specialised and oversized cargo with precision. Equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and a robust cargo ecosystem, RGIA remains fully prepared to support some of the world's most demanding transport requirements safely and seamlessly.

The Antonov, which landed in the morning to deliver cargo, departed in the afternoon. This heavy-lift strategic transport aircraft, one of the largest and heaviest cargo planes in the world, was designed in the Soviet era by the Antonov Design Bureau. It is known for carrying exceptionally large and heavy loads, including military equipment and humanitarian supplies, and is powered by four turbofan engines.

RGIA has earlier hosted several such giant aircraft, including the Airbus Beluga cargo plane in August 2024 and December 2022. The airport also handled an emergency landing of the Airbus A380 in 2012 and welcomed the Antonov An-225, the world's largest cargo aircraft at the time, in 2016.



The Antonov An-124 Ruslan that landed at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in Shamshabad. — DC



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

15 NOVEMBER 2025

हर 50 दिन में देश में एक नया हवाई अड्डा बन रहा : नायडू

विशाखापत्तनम, प्रेट्ट : नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री राम मोहन नायडू ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि भारत में हर 50 दिन में एक नया हवाई अड्डा बन रहा है। यह गति दुनिया के किसी देश के लिहाज से अभूतपूर्व है। दो दिवसीय सीआइआइ पार्टनरशिप समिट-2025 को संबोधित करते हुए मंत्री ने कहा कि आंध्र प्रदेश में वर्तमान में सात हवाई अड्डे हैं। राज्य में इतनी ही संख्या में हवाई अड्डे बन भी रहे हैं। नायडू ने कहा, हर 50 दिन में हम एक नया हवाई अड्डा खोल रहे हैं। हवाई अड्डों के निर्माण, यात्री क्षमता और विमानन के कई अन्य क्षेत्रों में हमें इसी तरह की सफलता मिली है। उड़ान संबंधी प्रशिक्षण देने के लिए चार



राम मोहन नायडू • फाइल फोटो

संगठन आ रहे हैं। विशाखापत्तनम में एमआरओ (रखरखाव, मरम्मत और ओवरहाल) इकोसिस्टम और एक विमानन कौशल विश्वविद्यालय स्थापित किया जा रहा है। मंत्री ने यह भी बताया कि राज्य में ड्रोन सिटी बनाकर ड्रोन क्षेत्र का विस्तार करने तथा एयरोस्पेस और विमान निर्माण को बढ़ावा देने की भी उम्मीद है।

हर 50 दिन में देश में एक नया हवाई अड्डा बन रहा : नायडू

नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री ने कहा- हवाई अड्डा बनने की यह गति अभूतपूर्व
सीआइआइ पार्टनरशिप
समिट को संबोधित कर रहे
थे राममोहन नायडू

विशाखापत्तनम, ओडिशा : नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री राममोहन नायडू ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि भारत में हर 50 दिन में एक नया हवाई अड्डा बन रहा है। हवाई अड्डा बनने की यह गति दुनिया के किसी देश के लिहाज से अभूतपूर्व है। दो दिवसीय सीआइआइ पार्टनरशिप समिट-2025 को संबोधित करते हुए मंत्री ने कहा कि आंध्र प्रदेश में वर्तमान में सात हवाई अड्डे हैं। राज्य में इतनी ही संख्या में हवाई अड्डे बन भी रहे हैं।

नायडू ने कहा, हर 50 दिन में हम एक नया हवाई अड्डा खोल रहे हैं। हवाई अड्डों के निर्माण, यात्री क्षमता और विमानन के कई अन्य क्षेत्रों में हमें इसी तरह की सफलता मिली है। राज्य में उड़ान संबंधी प्रशिक्षण देने के लिए चार संगठन आ रहे हैं। विशाखापत्तनम में एमआरओ (रखरखाव, मरम्मत और ओवरहाल) इंकोसिस्टम और एक विमानन कौशल विश्वविद्यालय स्थापित



विशाखापत्तनम में शुक्रवार को आयोजित सीआइआइ पार्टनरशिप समिट-2025 के मौके पर उपराष्ट्रपति सीपी राधाकृष्णन, आंध्र प्रदेश के राज्यपाल एस. आबदुल नजीर, मुख्यमंत्री एन. चंद्रबाबू नायडू, केंद्रीय मंत्री राममोहन नायडू, पीयूष गोयल और अन्य गणमान्य। एएनआइ

किया जा रहा है।

उन्होंने यह भी बताया कि राज्य में ट्वीन सिटी बनाकर ड्रोन क्षेत्र का विस्तार करने तथा एयरोस्पेस और विमान निर्माण को बढ़ावा देने की भी उम्मीद है।

बताते चले, पिछले एक दशक में भारत में विमान यात्रा में काफी बढ़ोतरी दर्ज की गई है। इस दौरान भारत विश्व का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा घरेलू विमानन बाजार बनकर उभरा है। हवाई यात्रियों

की संख्या 2014 में 10.3 करोड़ से बढ़कर 2025 में 35 करोड़ को पार कर गई। मुंबई और दिल्ली दुनिया के सबसे व्यस्त हवाई अड्डों में शामिल हैं।

उल्लेखनीय है केंद्र सरकार ने उड़ान योजना के तहत छोटे-छोटे शहरों को भी हवाई यातायात से जोड़ने के लिए हवाई अड्डों के निर्माण की गति दे रही है। सरकार का मानना है कि हवाई चप्पल पहनने वाले भी हवाई यात्रा कर सकें।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

KANPUR

14 NOVEMBER 2025

एयरपोर्ट पर माकड्रिल परखे सुरक्षा इंतजाम

जासं, कानपुर : दिल्ली में हुए बम धमाके के बाद गुरुवार को चकेरी एयरपोर्ट पर भी सुरक्षा और तैयारियों को माकड्रिल से परखा गया। इसमें चकेरी पुलिस, सीआइएसएफ, डाग और बम स्क्वाड शामिल हुए।

एयरपोर्ट पर बम होने की सूचना दी गई। इस पर एयरपोर्ट के अधिकारी, सीआइएसएफ जवान अलर्ट हुए। कुछ समय बाद चकेरी पुलिस, बम व डाग स्क्वाड, दमकल, बीडीएस आदि सुरक्षा एजेंसियों की टीमें पहुंचीं। सभी ने एयरपोर्ट के चप्पे-चप्पे की तलाशी ली। यात्रियों से पूछताछ कर उन्हें सुरक्षा का भरोसा दिलाया। यात्रियों को सेफ जोन ले जाया गया। थाना प्रभारी अजय प्रकाश मिश्र ने बताया कि करीब दो से तीन घंटे तक चली माकड्रिल में अधिकारियों ने सूचना मिलने के बाद रिस्पॉंस टाइम जांचा।

नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट : तकनीकी नवाचारों का स्विस-भारतीय संगम

■ देवेन्द्र सिंह

ग्रेटर नोएडा, 14 नवम्बर (देशबन्धु)। उत्तर प्रदेश के यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण के जेवर में विकसित हो रहे इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट ने तकनीकी क्षेत्र में एक नया मानदंड स्थापित करने की दिशा में कदम बढ़ा दिया है। नोएडा एयरपोर्ट के नाम से विख्यात यह विमानक्षेत्र, जो स्विस एयरपोर्ट इंटरनेशनल एजी की पूर्ण स्वामित्व वाली कंपनी द्वारा संचालित भारत का पहला 100 प्रतिशत प्रत्यक्ष विदेशी निवेश (एफडीआई) परियोजना है, अन्य बड़े हवाई अड्डों जैसे इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय या मुंबई के छत्रपति शिवाजी महाराज टर्मिनल से अपनी डिजिटल-प्रथम और पर्यावरण-अनुकूल डिजाइन से अलग पहचान बना रहा है। यहां की विशेषताएं न केवल यात्रियों को संपर्कहित और व्यक्तिगत अनुभव प्रदान करेंगी, बल्कि विमानन क्षेत्र में सतत विकास की मिसाल भी कायम करेंगी।

यह एयरपोर्ट भारत का पहला नेट-जीरो एमिशन विमानक्षेत्र होगा,

जहां कार्बन न्यूट्रैलिटी, शून्य नेट ऊर्जा उपयोग, जल न्यूट्रैलिटी और शून्य अपशिष्ट का लक्ष्य यात्रियों की संख्या से स्वतंत्र रूप से प्राप्त किया जाएगा। निर्माण में लो-कार्बन एलसी3 सीमेंट का उपयोग, उन्नत वर्षा जल संचयन एवं पुनर्चक्रण प्रणाली तथा ऊर्जा-कुशल भवनों के साथ स्मार्ट प्रबंधन तंत्र इसे अन्य एयरपोर्ट्स से श्रेष्ठ बनाते हैं, जहां पारंपरिक ईंधन-आधारित संचालन अभी भी प्रचलित है। इसके अतिरिक्त, यह 'नेट पॉजिटिव' सततता को ओर अग्रसर है, जिसमें अतिरिक्त नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा उत्पादन, जल प्रणालियों का पुनरुत्पादन और परिपत्र अर्थव्यवस्था का विकास शामिल है।

तकनीकी मोर्चे पर नोएडा एयरपोर्ट पूर्णतः डिजिटल इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर पर आधारित होगा, जो यात्रियों को सुरक्षित, संपर्कहित यात्रा अनुभव के साथ-साथ अनुकूलित व्यवसायिक सुविधाएं प्रदान करेगा। यहां 'प्लग एंड प्ले' वातावरण एयरलाइनों को न्यूनतम प्रारंभिक लागत पर अधिकतम यात्री संतुष्टि सुनिश्चित करेगा, जबकि डिजिटल रणनीति यात्री अनुभव, संचालन दक्षता और आय में उत्कृष्टता



■ देश के अन्य बड़े हवाई अड्डों से अलग, डिजिटल क्रांति और शून्य-कार्बन लक्ष्य से सज्जित यह विमानक्षेत्र भारत की उड़ान को नई ऊंचाइयों पर ले जाएगा

के बेंचमार्क स्थापित करेगा।

विशेष रूप से, विश्व की सबसे बड़ी आईटी इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर सेवा प्रदाता काईडिल के साथ साझेदारी से एआई-चालित स्वचालन को बढ़ावा मिला है। काईडिल ब्रिज प्लेटफॉर्म के माध्यम से वास्तविक समय प्रणाली निगरानी, पूर्वानुमानित विश्लेषण और जोखिम न्यूनीकरण सुनिश्चित होगा, जो 24/7 संचालन समर्थन और साइबर सुरक्षा निगरानी के साथ संयुक्त होकर निर्बाध सेवाएं

प्रदान करेगा। यह सुविधा अन्य भारतीय एयरपोर्ट्स में दुर्लभ है, जहां पारंपरिक आईटी प्रणालियां अभी भी जोखिमों का सामना कर रही हैं।

इसके अलावा, बहु-रनवे डिजाइन (छह रनवे और छह टर्मिनल) के साथ 225 मिलियन यात्रियों की वार्षिक क्षमता वाला यह हब, एकीकृत ग्राउंड ट्रांसपोर्टेशन सेंटर के जरिए मेट्रो नेटवर्क और प्रस्तावित दिल्ली-वाराणसी हाई-स्पीड रेल से जुड़ेगा। एक समर्पित

रखरखाव, मरम्मत एवं सुधार (एमआरओ) सुविधा विमान यातायात को सहारा देगी, जो इसे एक बहु-माध्यमिक कनेक्टिविटी केंद्र के रूप में स्थापित करेगी। स्थानीय संस्कृति से प्रेरित वास्तुकला, जैसे हरिद्वार-वाराणसी घाटों का थीम, तकनीकी आधुनिकता को सांस्कृतिक स्पर्श से जोड़ेगी।

परियोजना के प्रबंधक यमुना इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट प्राइवेट लिमिटेड के अधिकारियों के अनुसार, 'यह एयरपोर्ट स्विस दक्षता और भारतीय आतिथ्य का अनुदा मिश्रण होगा, जो यात्रियों को भविष्योन्मुखी अनुभव देगा।' पहले चरण में 12 मिलियन यात्रियों की क्षमता वाला यह विमानक्षेत्र 2025 के अंत तक चालू होने की उम्मीद है, जो दिल्ली-एनसीआर की उड़ान क्षमता को दोगुना करने के साथ-साथ राष्ट्रीय विमानन को वैश्विक स्तर पर प्रतिस्पर्धी बनाएगा। अन्य एयरपोर्ट्स की तुलना में इसकी ये विशेषताएं न केवल दक्षता बढ़ाएंगी, बल्कि पर्यावरण संरक्षण और डिजिटल समावेशन की नई मिसाल पेश करेंगी।

Noida International Airport to commence operations soon: Tata Projects



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

■ New Delhi

Tata Projects, the infrastructure and construction arm of Tata Group, on Thursday said the upcoming Noida International Airport at Jewar, in Uttar Pradesh, will soon begin operations and asserted that the approvals are in progress.

Tata Projects Ltd was given the contract to build the Noida International Airport (NIA). "Noida International Airport Ltd is working with DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) to get safety, security clearances, the aerodrome license, as they call it. So now it is into more regulatory approval process rather than the construction.

"So by and large our work is ready for

the Prime Minister to come and inaugurate," Vinayak Pai, the CEO and Managing Director of Tata Projects, said during a press meet. Replying to a question, Pai said that the airport is expected to begin operations "in a short period of time".

The company, he said, is definitely adding new projects to its portfolio, so it aims to maintain the order book in the range of ₹40,000 crore to ₹43,000 crore. The company is engaged in more projects in emerging areas such as 4th generation manufacturing, electronic semiconductor manufacturing, solar panel manufacturing and data centres. "So our average cycle time is reducing. Many of these projects get completed in 18 months to two years. We are known for our fast track project delivery, predictable project delivery and we want

to maintain that special edge," he explained. The company had reported a net loss of ₹751 crore in the last financial year. On this, Pai said, "These losses are on account of the cumulative effect of projects which were going on during Covid and before that. So a lot of those projects are now getting completed.

"Our portfolio of new projects is steadily profitable. Old projects will be completed this year. From next year, it will be the new portfolio which will reflect in the result, and you will see a very good reflection of that in the profitability." Tata Projects, a technology-led engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) company, provides ready-to-deploy solutions for semiconductor facilities, giga factories, data centres, etc.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

14 NOVEMBER 2025

■ NOTAM issued after Delhi spoofing scare; DGCA on high alert India warns of GPS loss near Mumbai

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 13

In the wake of a growing cyber-attack threat to India's airspace, aviation authorities have issued a notice to airmen (NOTAM) warning pilots and air traffic control (ATC) of possible GPS signal interference or loss in the skies near Mumbai.

The NOTAM, valid from November 13 to 17, 2025, cautions pilots flying in the region to exercise utmost caution as satellite-based navigation systems could face disruption.

According to the notice, GPS signal loss has been reported along two major air traffic service (ATS) routes — L639 and P574 — within the Mumbai flight information region (FIR).

It advises all aircraft operating on these routes to remain alert to potential signal degradation over the next four days. "GPS Signal interference/loss reported on ATS L639 and P574 in Mumbai FIR. All ACFT (aircraft) to EXER (exercise) CTN (caution)," the NOTAM says.

The NOTAM comes shortly after the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) ordered airlines, pilots, and ATCs to report GPS spoofing incidents within 10 minutes of occurrence. This order was in response to the Delhi airport situated last week that saw massive air traffic disruption for about 36 hours due to alleged GPS spoofing. The office of national security advisor Ajit Doval is inves-

igating the incident. **■ AIR INDIA'S** Toronto-Delhi flight AI 188 received a bomb threat at Delhi. However, it turned out to be a hoax and the flight landed safely at IGI Airport.

igating the incident.

GPS spoofing is part of cyberattack that tricks pilots and ATCs with false information and misguiding them. A GPS interference can be in the form of spoofing and jamming.

The NOTAM was pointed out by Damien Symon, geo intelligence associated with Intel Lab. "India issues a NOTAM warning aircraft of GPS interference/loss around air traffic routes within its airspace near Mumbai, this follows reports of similar

interference observed around New Delhi," Mr Symon wrote on X.

Meanwhile, Air India's Toronto-Delhi flight AI 188 received a bomb threat at Delhi. However, it turned out to be a hoax and the flight landed safely at the Indra Gandhi Airport. Air India spokesperson said a security alert was communicated regarding the flight AI188 during its cruise from Toronto to Delhi on Thursday.

"On board crew carried out all the laid down security drills keeping passenger safety and security as top priority. The flight has landed safely at Delhi and has been parked for the mandatory security checks by the security as per the protocol," the spokesperson said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

14 NOVEMBER 2025

Air India flight gets bomb threat

New Delhi: Authorities on Thursday received a bomb threat message for Air India's flight from Toronto to Delhi, and the flight landed safely in the national capital, according to sources. In the morning, Delhi Police received a message claiming a bomb threat for the flight AI188. Subsequently, the Bomb Threat Assessment Committee (BTAC) was constituted at the Delhi airport and it was assessed that the threat was 'non-specific', the sources told PTI. When contacted, an Air India spokesperson said a security alert was communicated regarding the flight AI188 during its cruise from Toronto to Delhi.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE DAILY GUARDIAN

DELHI

14 NOVEMBER 2025

SpiceJet brings Chandan Sand on airline's board as executive director

TGG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Domestic carrier SpiceJet on Thursday announced the induction of Chandan Sand as an Executive Director on the airline's board.

This is the second key appointment at the loss-making airline within this month.

On November 3, the company brought on board seasoned aviation professional and IndiGo's former Chief Strategy and Revenue Officer Sanjay Kumar as Executive Director.

Sand had earlier been heading the functions of legal, aircraft acquisition, leasing and financing, procurement and the company secretary at SpiceJet.

He will now have an enhanced role as a board member, the airline said, adding that his appointment is subject to regula-



tory approvals.

"We welcome Chandan to the Board of SpiceJet. His long-standing commitment to the company, coupled with his extensive expertise across various functions, makes him a valuable addition to our board as we chart a renewed path for SpiceJet," said Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, SpiceJet.

Sand has been associated with SpiceJet since June 2001.

With a career spanning over two decades in the aviation sector and with the company, he

has played a pivotal role in shaping core strategic functions across the business, the airline said.

His role also entails restructuring and navigating complex legal landscapes of aircraft transactions. He also plays a pivotal role in driving the company's growth and expansion initiatives and his responsibilities include negotiating a wide range of commercial agreements including aircraft acquisition and financing, managing regulatory compliance issues, and providing legal support, the airline stated.

Winter Travel: Airfare Freeze likely, but Room Rates may Hot Up

Flight tickets to popular local & international destinations may cost the same as in 2024; hotel tariffs set to soar for new year bookings

**Arindam Majumder
& Anumeha Chaturvedi**

New Delhi: This holiday season, you're more likely to get a fair deal on flights to your dream destination, but the stay may pinch your pocket. While airfares to many popular domestic and international destinations are expected to stay flat compared to last year as airlines ramp up capacity, hoteliers say tariffs are headed for a record-breaking year. "As of now, we see airfares for the year-end season being largely flat compared to last year for routes like Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines," said Rajesh Magow, cofounder and group CEO of travel

portal MakeMyTrip. "There is serious capacity coming in on certain routes, so even if the demand is rocking, we don't expect the prices to go up steeply," he added.

The same cannot be said about stay, though. Room rates in many popular leisure destinations are

expected to increase by double digits as the new year comes in, with hotels seeing higher activity.

"Overall, we anticipate a nearly 15% average room rate growth in quarter four compared to the previous year, underscoring the strong travel sentiment and preference for premium

stays across our portfolio," said Nikhil Sharma, managing director and chief operating officer for South Asia at Radisson Hotel Group.

Average room rates at Radisson Resort & Spa Lonavala are currently 32% higher year-on-year, with continued double-digit growth

expected through November and December, he said.

According to data shared by a travel major, December airfares to popular destinations like Vietnam and Dubai have increased by only single percentage points compared to last year. Ticket prices to Australia—a popular destination for Indians in December—are the same as last year, the firm said.

In fact, the prices could be easing on some key routes.

"Data shows a dip in overall domestic and international fares this year, down 8.6% domestically and 5.4% internationally," a Cleartrip spokesperson said.



ZAHID

Better Regional Connectivity ▶▶ 10

Better Regional Connectivity

▶▶ From Page 1

Travellers are actively taking advantage of improved regional air connectivity for destinations like Vietnam and Sri Lanka, the person added.

SD Nandakumar, president and country head for holidays and corporate tours at SOTC Travel, said overall tour pricing has seen an increase of approximately 3-7% for domestic and short-haul destinations. "Considering Indians are true value seekers, we have launched attractive air inclusive tours for destinations like Thailand, Bali and Vietnam this winter to spur demand," he said.

There has been a glut of deals over the last two months, with airlines trying to fill up seats as they add capacity, sometimes taking planes on short-term lease.

India's largest airline IndiGo is inducting 10 aircraft on short-term lease and may add more, people aware of the development said.

Similarly, SpiceJet has started to induct planes and will add more than 20 planes to cater to the winter rush, industry insiders said.

Airlines normally lower fares to get more people to book tickets when demand slows, or competition stiffens.

There's little question that com-

petition has intensified on some routes, but airline executives said there is no sign that demand is waning.

Pieter Elbers, CEO of IndiGo, noted that the festive season has marked a good quarter for the airline for the last many years. "I have no reason to assume that this time it will not be a good quarter," he said.

"To ensure we are well-positioned to meet strong and sustained demand, particularly through the peak travel season, we have taken steps to augment our fleet through additional damp lease arrangements," Elbers said.

So, how do you plan your travel in the peak season without spending a bomb?

Book early, ahead of the season—that way, you can keep the travel cost low, industry executives said.

Airfares are notoriously volatile and never less so than during the holidays, which are among the busiest times to fly, noted Praveen Iyer, cofounder and chief commercial officer at Akasa Air.

"If you plan in advance, if you book in advance, there are some amazing deals available," he said. "Even now, if you book something for December 15 or December 20, there are very good fares."

So if you're planning a year-end getaway, book soon—or pay more.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

15 NOVEMBER 2025

तकनीकी खराबी से निजी विमान की आपात लैंडिंग

तिरुचिरापल्ली (तमिलनाडु), एर्जेसी। तमिलनाडु के पुदुकोट्टई जिले में शुक्रवार को एक बड़ा हादसा टल गया। तकनीकी खराबी आने के कारण एक निजी प्रशिक्षण विमान की राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग पर आपातकालीन लैंडिंग करानी पड़ी।

पुलिस ने बताया कि उड़ान के दौरान विमान की विंडशील्ड में दरार आ गई थी, जिसके चलते पायलट ने सूझबूझ दिखाते हुए 'सेसना 172' विमान को त्रिची-पुदुकोट्टई राजमार्ग पर नार्थमलाई के पास, सुरक्षित उतार लिया। राहत की बात यह है कि विमान में सवार पायलट और प्रशिक्षु दोनों ही

वायुसेना का प्रशिक्षण विमान दुर्घटनाग्रस्त

चेन्नई, एर्जेसी। भारतीय वायुसेना का एक प्रशिक्षण विमान शुक्रवार दोपहर चेन्नई के पास तांबरम में नियमित उड़ान के दौरान दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो गया। अधिकारियों ने बताया कि हादसे में पायलट सुरक्षित बाहर निकलने में सफल रहे।

सुरक्षित हैं और जमीन पर भी किसी को कोई नुकसान नहीं पहुंचा। हवाई अड्डा प्राधिकरण ने पुष्टि की है कि इंजन में खराबी आ गई थी। इस पूरे मामले की विस्तृत जांच के आदेश दिए गए हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

14 NOVEMBER 2025

TORONTO-DELHI FLIGHT GETS BOMB THREAT; PLANE LANDS SAFELY

HTC and PTI

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Authorities on Thursday received a bomb threat message for an Air India flight when it was flying from Toronto to Delhi.

The flight later landed safely in the national capital, according to sources.

In the morning, Delhi Police received a message claiming bomb threat for the flight AI188. Subsequently, the Bomb Threat Assessment Committee (BTAC) was constituted at the Delhi airport, and it was assessed that the threat was "non-specific", the sources said.

The message was received around 11.30am when the flight, operated with a Boeing 777 aircraft, was mid-air and was little over four hours away from Delhi, the sources said.

When contacted, an Air India spokesperson said a security alert was communicated regarding the flight AI188 during its cruise from Toronto to Delhi on Thursday.

"A security alert was received on Air India flight AI188 during its cruise from Toronto to Delhi on 13 November. On board crew carried out all the laid down security drills keeping passenger safety & security as top priority. The flight has landed safely at Delhi and has been parked for the mandatory security checks by the security as per the protocol. All passengers and crew have disembarked safely," said an Air India spokesperson.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

14 NOVEMBER 2025

Star Air raises ₹150 cr. for fleet expansion

Jagriti Chandra

BENGALURU

Bengaluru-headquartered regional carrier Star Air said it has raised ₹150 crore in a Series B Round Fund for fleet expansion.

The funds were from a consortium of marquee investors including Micro Labs Ltd., Deepak Agarwal of Bikaji foods, and others.

The airline of the Sanjay Ghodawat Group plans to raise another ₹200 crore.

The funds will help the airline to grow its fleet, Star Air said in a press statement.

The airline plans to grow to a 50-aircraft fleet by 2030, according to its CEO Simran Singh Tiwana.

The airline today has nine aircraft.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

15 NOVEMBER 2025

Singapore Airlines commits to AI change

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NEW DELHI

For Singapore Airlines, which owns one-fourth of Air India, there is "no disillusionment" about its investment, even though the Indian carrier's losses weigh on its profitability.

"We remain committed to the transformation of Air India. There is no disillusionment. It is a long-term investment that we are making, and we understand there will be challenges," said chief executive Goh Choon Phong, during the post-restalt analyst and media briefing on Friday.

Now past the halfway mark, Air India's transformation programme, initiated in September 2022, seeks to overhaul every aspect of the business, including its fleet, customer experience, operations, and internal processes.

The Air India investment enables the Singaporean flag carrier to participate directly in India's high-growth domestic and international market across both full-service and low-cost carrier segments, it said in an investor presentation. The customer confidence in the airline remains intact despite the fatal Ahmedabad crash, he said, adding Singapore Airlines has had a "lot of interaction and engagement (with Air India)" and has been "helping (out) whenever needed".

For an extended version of this story, go to [livemint.com](https://www.livemint.com).



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THE PIONEER

DELHI

14 NOVEMBER 2025

Noida International Airport to commence operations soon: Tata Projects



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ New Delhi

Tata Projects, the infrastructure and construction arm of Tata Group, on Thursday said the upcoming Noida International Airport at Jewar, in Uttar Pradesh, will soon begin operations and asserted that the approvals are in progress.

Tata Projects Ltd was given the contract to build the Noida International Airport (NIA). "Noida International Airport Ltd is working with DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) to get safety, security clearances, the aerodrome license, as they call it. So now it is into more regulatory approval process rather than the construction.

"So by and large our work is ready for

the Prime Minister to come and inaugurate," Vinayak Pai, the CEO and Managing Director of Tata Projects, said during a press meet. Replying to a question, Pai said that the airport is expected to begin operations "in a short period of time".

The company, he said, is definitely adding new projects to its portfolio, so it aims to maintain the order book in the range of ₹40,000 crore to ₹43,000 crore. The company is engaged in more projects in emerging areas such as 4th generation manufacturing, electronic semiconductor manufacturing, solar panel manufacturing and data centres. "So our average cycle time is reducing. Many of these projects get completed in 18 months to two years. We are known for our fast track project delivery, predictable project delivery and we want

to maintain that special edge," he explained. The company had reported a net loss of ₹751 crore in the last financial year. On this, Pai said, "These losses are on account of the cumulative effect of projects which were going on during Covid and before that. So a lot of those projects are now getting completed.

"Our portfolio of new projects is steadily profitable. Old projects will be completed this year. From next year, it will be the new portfolio which will reflect in the result, and you will see a very good reflection of that in the profitability." Tata Projects, a technology-led engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) company, provides ready-to-deploy solutions for semiconductor facilities, giga factories, data centres, etc.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

14 NOVEMBER 2025

Indigo's direct flights to Cambodia expected to boost tourism

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
Kolkata, 13 November

As the winter travel season takes off, IndiGo has added a new international destination to its growing network, launching direct flights between Kolkata and Siem Reap, Cambodia — the gateway to the world-famous Angkor Wat.

With this, IndiGo becomes the first Indian carrier to offer a direct air link between India and Cambodia. The thrice-weekly flights, operated on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays by Airbus A320neo aircraft, are expected to give a significant boost to tourism and cultural exchange between the two countries. Siem Reap marks IndiGo's 46th international and

140th overall destination, underscoring the airline's rapid international expansion from its eastern hub in Kolkata.

"We are glad to launch our inaugural flight to Siem Reap, which not only expands our network across Southeast Asia but also enhances our global connectivity from Kolkata," said Pieter Elbers, CEO of IndiGo. "This new service reflects IndiGo's commitment to connecting people, cultures, and opportunities across Asia." Travel and tourism stakeholders have welcomed the move, noting that easier access and Cambodia's visa-on-arrival and e-visa facilities will likely encourage more Indian tourists to explore the cultural and



architectural marvels of Angkor Wat and beyond. As temperatures dip and travel demand rises, the

new connection is expected to open up fresh avenues for leisure tourism, offering travellers from

eastern India a seamless link to one of Asia's most captivating heritage destinations this winter.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

14 NOVEMBER 2025

Singapore Air's profit plunges 68% in H1 on Air India losses

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Singapore Airlines (SIA) has seen its profit for the first half this year fall 68% “notably” due to losses of Air India and some other factors. Owned 25.1% by SIA and the rest by Tata Group, Air India group had lost Rs 9,568.4 crore in FY25. SIA said its group “net profit for the first half fell by \$503 million (67.8%) to \$239 million”.

Following the June 12 Ahmedabad crash, AI has reportedly sought more fund infusion from its promoters. According to agency reports, Air India is seeking at least Rs 10,000 crore (\$1.1 billion) in financial support from its promoters.

SIA, in a statement on

IN A FREE FALL

AI Express | Losses soared 4.2 times to ₹5,678 crore in FY25 from ₹1,357 crore in FY24

Air India | Loss narrowed to ₹3,890 crore in FY25 from ₹5,025 crore in FY24

SIA Group | Net profit nosedived 68% in first half this year to \$239mn

➤ SIA Group's 'share of results of associated companies was \$417mn lower YoY', reflecting AI's losses

Thursday, said: “Despite the ongoing challenges, the SIA Group remains committed to working with its partner Tata Sons to support Air India’s comprehensive multi-year transformation programme.”

SIA Group’s interest in-

come fell \$103 million from lower cash balances and interest rate cuts, while the “group’s share of results of associated companies was \$417 million lower year-on-year, notably reflecting Air India’s losses which were not included in the previous year. The group began equity accounting for Air India’s financial performance from Dec 2024, following the full integration of Vistara into Air India,” SIA said in a statement, adding, “Share of losses from Air India and lower interest income drag (ged) down net profit.”

The net profit nosedived despite SIA Group revenue rising by \$178 million (1.9%) from the year before to a first half record of \$9,675 million.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

14 NOVEMBER 2025

Lack of regular flights from three state airports irks High Court

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

SHIMLA, NOVEMBER 13

The Himachal Pradesh High Court has taken serious note of the lack of regular flight operations from the state's three airports — Shimla, Kullu, and Kangra — and has sought responses from both the Central

and state governments.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia and Justice Jiya Lal Bhardwaj passed these directions during the hearing of a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) that was originally filed concerning the issue of bird menace at Kangra (Gaggal) airport.

The court has sought response from both Centre & state govt

During the hearing, the court expanded the scope of the PIL to include the issue of irregular flight services across all airports in the

state. The court was informed that despite having three airports in the state, the Union of India has not ensured adequate flight operations, causing grave inconvenience to residents and tourists.

The Bench observed that, being a hilly state where travel by road is difficult, air connectivity is crucial, especially

since the tourism industry is a major source of revenue for Himachal Pradesh. It was further brought to the court's attention that at Shimla and Kullu airports, usually only one flight operates and even that service lacks regularity.

The High Court has directed that the Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, be impleaded

as a respondent and has issued notice to the Central Government through the Ministry. The state government has been directed to file a status report detailing the steps or requests it has made to ensure regular flight operations from these airports.

The case will next be heard on December 16.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

14 NOVEMBER 2025

Air India Toronto flight receives bomb threat

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

A mid-air security alert was triggered on Air India's Toronto-Delhi flight AI188 after authorities received a bomb threat during the aircraft's journey to India. The Boeing 777, carrying hundreds of passengers, landed safely at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport on Thursday morning, where mandatory security checks were carried out.

According to an Air India spokesperson, the onboard crew "carried out all laid-down security drills with passenger safety and security as top priority". The airline said the flight landed safely and all passengers and crew disembarked without incident. "The aircraft has been parked for mandatory security checks as per protocol," the spokesperson added.

Flight tracking data from Flightradar24 showed that AI188 was in the air for over 15 hours before reaching Delhi. — TNS

Preliminary report doesn't blame AI pilot for crash, Centre tells SC

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 13

The Centre on Thursday told the Supreme Court that the Air India pilot had not been blamed in the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) preliminary report into the June 12 plane crash that claimed 265 lives, including those of both pilots and crew members.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told a Bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joydalya Bagchi that an AAIB team was set up to look into the crash under an international regime, and the investigation was currently underway. There's a statutory provision for it, he added.

"The AAIB inquiry is not for apportioning blame on anyone. It is only to clarify the cause so that the same does not

PROBE NOT FOR APPORTIONING BLAME ON ANYONE

"The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau inquiry is not for apportioning blame on anyone. It is only to clarify the cause so that the same does not happen again, sc



happen again," the Bench said. Advocate Prashant Bhushan, representing an NGO, said a parallel inquiry, such as a court of inquiry, should probe into the accident. "A pilots' federation has stated that these airplanes cannot be trusted and there is a huge risk on people flying in their aircraft," he said.

Noting that these proceedings should not become a

fight between airlines, the Bench issued a notice to the Centre and DGCA on a petition filed by Pushkar Raj Sabharwal, father of Captain Sumeet Sabharwal who died in the crash, and posted the matter for further hearing after two weeks.

"You should not carry this burden that your son is being blamed... Nobody can blame him for anything... No one in India believes it was the

pilot's fault... It was an accident," the Bench had said on November 7.

"It's extremely unfortunate that this crash took place, but you should not carry this burden that your son is being blamed... Nobody can blame him for anything... No one in India believes it was the pilot's fault... It was an accident. There is no insinuation against him even in the preliminary report," Justice Kant had told 91-year-old Pushkar Raj.

Expressing concern over the selective leak of the preliminary inquiry report, which led to a media narrative blaming pilot error for the crash of the London-bound Air India flight AI171, the Bench had earlier noted that certain aspects of the July 12 AAIB preliminary report indicating lapses on the part of pilots were "irresponsible".